

# FATALITY



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS III CORPS AND FORT HOOD  
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AFZF-GA-SAFE

11 June 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Fatal POV Accident - Fatality Memo 03-16

1. On Friday morning, a tragic POV accident claimed the life of a III Corps soldier who was enroute to the airport returning from leave. In the early morning, the soldier lost control driving his automobile on wet roads. The vehicle spun and slid broadside across the roadway, leaving the roadway and striking a telephone pole on the driver's side. Three other passengers, two brothers and a friend, experienced non-fatal injuries.

2. Prior to this fatality, III Corps had operated for 55 days without a fatal POV accident. This raises the number of III Corps soldiers killed in POV accidents to 15 for FY03. This is a 25 percent increase over the same time frame of FY02. We must reverse this adverse trend.

3. Typically, one or more of the four common factors, fatigue, speed, alcohol, and not wearing seat belts, is present in POV fatalities. In this latest incident, the preliminary investigation indicates the soldier operated his vehicle too fast for road conditions. Review your existing POV accident prevention programs for adequacy. Research and implement initiatives that will focus your programs on the common threads of POV accidents – not wearing seat belts, excessive speed, fatigue, alcohol, and not wearing protective motorcycle gear. Your leaders can find a wealth of POV safety resource material in the "POV TOOL BOX" on the Army Safety Center's web site (<http://safety.army.mil/home.html>).

4. I cannot overstate the importance of leaders staying in touch with their soldiers' activities and plans. Ensure that soldiers are well prepared for the challenges of weekends, training holidays, and personal leaves. Staying in touch enables leaders to identify soldiers who are potentially at risk and then take appropriate actions to modify risky behavior. We need 100% commitment from every individual, leader, and commander to prevent the unnecessary deaths due to POV accidents.

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THOMAS F. METZ  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

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